

Amendments to th Claims:

1 (original). A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface.

2 (original). The machine according to claim 1, wherein said brake shoe is movable transversely to a conveying direction of the sheets.

3 (original). The machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable parallel to a conveying direction of the sheets.

4 (original). The machine according to claim 3, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable cyclically in and counter to the sheet conveying direction.

5 (currently amended). The machine according to claim 4, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable in a ~~delayed~~ retarded manner in the sheet conveying direction.

6 (original). The machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one brake shoe has a height of from less than to only slightly greater than a spaced distance between said guide surface and a respective sheet floatingly guided thereabove.

7 (original). The machine according to claim 1, further comprising at least one linear motor for driving said at least one brake shoe.

8 (original). The machine according to claim 7, wherein said linear motor has a stator part and a rotor part, said stator part being disposed beneath said guide surface, and said rotor part being disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of in and on said at least one brake shoe.

9 (original). The machine according to claim 1, wherein said guide surface is formed of non-magnetizable material.

10 (original). The machine according to claim 1, further comprising air nozzles provided in said guide surface.

11 (original). The machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one brake shoe is connected to a suction air source.

12 (original). The machine according to claim 1, further comprising a guide for guiding said at least one brake shoe therein parallel to the sheet conveying direction, said guide having a support engaging in a U-shaped manner around an end of said guide surface.

13 (original). The machine according to claim 12, wherein said support of said guide is adjustable transversely to said guide direction.

14 (original). The machine according to claim 12, wherein said guide has a fork-shaped configuration, and said brake shoe around which said guide engages lies laterally on said guide surface.

15 (original). The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies on said guide surface, and an air-cushion bearing is disposed between said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

16 (original). The machine according to claim 15, further comprising nozzles provided in said guide surface for producing said air cushion.

17 (original). The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies without contact on said guide surface, and a magnetic bearing is disposed between said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

18 (original). The machine according to claim 7, wherein said at least one linear motor is selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic and pneumatic linear motors.

19 (original). A sheet-fed printing press, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed in the sheet-fed printing press; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface.

20 (original). In a sheet-processing machine, a delivery comprising:

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said
guide surface.